



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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August 25, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: EP-4

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Interim Director of Public Works

SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON THE COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attached is the status report on the County Integrated Waste Management Plan for February 2004 through July 2004. Highlights of the report are provided below.

On September 30, 2003, your Board instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon from the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element's list of future landfill sites. In order for Elsmere Canyon to be removed from the Siting Element, the Five-Year Review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Siting Element's amendment process must be sequentially completed. Public Works began the Five-Year Review in October 2003. The Five-Year Review Report was completed and forwarded to the California Integrated Waste Management Board on June 23, 2004, for approval. Public Works has begun the Siting Element amendment process which is anticipated to be completed in November 2006 assuming no major complications occur.

Waste Management, Inc., is proposing an expansion of the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center. Waste Management, Inc., has submitted an application to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning for an increase in its daily permitted disposal capacity from 1,700 tons per day to 3,000 tons per day. A draft Environmental Impact Report is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Regional Planning for their review by the end of August.

Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., continues its efforts to obtain all necessary permits for development of the City portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. On July 14, 2004, Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., announced it had agreed to install a double liner under the City landfill area. This will keep an early 2005 opening date on track while lessening

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fears of potential leakage. Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., plans to begin tree removal activities in August 2004 and install the liner in November 2004.

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens Materials Recovery Facility, is seeking approval from Regional Planning to increase its operating capacity from 1,920 tons per day to 8,500 tons per day. After a number of public hearings on the proposal, the Regional Planning Commission directed its staff to prepare final conditions of approval on June 2, 2004. Regional Planning staff is currently preparing findings and conditions for consideration by the Commission.

On August 3, 2004, a special panel convened by the Governor released a comprehensive report (entitled "California Performance Review") on how State Government can be more responsive and efficient. Overall, the Report recommends the elimination of more than 100 boards/commissions (including the California Integrated Waste Management Board) and establishment of 11 integrated departments. Public Works is currently reviewing the Report's recommendations to determine its impact on our solid waste management responsibilities/programs.

The California Air Resources Board directed its staff to modify its Regulation for Solid Waste Collection Vehicles for a 15-day comment period which commenced on February 26, 2004. The regulation has removed its requirement for jurisdictions to enforce this regulation. However, the regulation still places the California Air Resources Board's responsibilities relating to waste collection vehicles on municipalities for those municipalities that contract with waste hauler companies. Public Works and the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force submitted letters on March 11, 2004, expressing concern with the proposed regulation. On May 17, 2004, the California Air Resources Board approved the regulation and sent it to the Office of Administrative Law with only minor changes. The Office of Administrative Law approved the regulation on July 20, 2004.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
County Counsel
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

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CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1989 (AB 939)

- **Five-Year Review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element**

Section 41822 of the Public Resources Code requires the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (ColWMP), which was approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) in June 1999, to be reviewed and revised if necessary every five years. The ColWMP includes the Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRREs), Household Hazardous Waste Elements (HHWEs), and the Nondisposal Facility Elements (NDFEs) prepared by each of the 89 jurisdictions in the County; the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element); and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan (Summary Plan).

On September 30, 2003, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon from the Siting Element's list of future landfill sites. In order for Elsmere Canyon to be removed from the Siting Element, the Five-Year Review of the ColWMP and the Siting Element's amendment process must be sequentially completed.

Public Works began work on the Five-Year Review in October 2003. On November 13, 2003, Public Works, acting on behalf of the County and the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), forwarded a survey to every city in the County of Los Angeles requesting information for inclusion in the Five-Year Review Report. There were delays in the cities' responses, mainly attributed to some cities experiencing frequent staff changes. Some cities did not respond at all to the survey. On April 1, 2004, Public Works met with staff from the Waste Board to discuss possible alternatives to proceed with finalization of the Report despite the missing data. Based on that discussion, Public Works proceeded with drafting the Report utilizing Waste Board-supplied data.

On May 20, 2004, the Task Force considered the draft Five-Year Review Report and offered their comments. The draft Report was subsequently revised by Public Works to address the Task Force's comments. On June 21, 2004, the Task Force reconsidered the revised draft Report based on the comments made at its May 20 meeting and concurred with the Report's findings and recommendations.

The Report was completed and forwarded to the Waste Board on June 23, 2004, for approval. Public Works is now working on the Siting Element amendment process which is anticipated to be completed by November 2006 assuming no major complications occur.

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- **Disposal Quantity Reporting**

The Solid Waste Disposal Quantity Reports for the fourth quarter of 2003 were received, compiled, and forwarded by Public Works in April 2004, to over 300 jurisdictions throughout the State which utilized disposal facilities located in the County of Los Angeles.

For the fourth quarter of 2003, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 3.13 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This tonnage is approximately 54,000 tons less than the quantities disposed in the same period in 2002.

In the fourth quarter of 2003, approximately 504,700 tons of solid waste were exported by jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to out-of-County landfills for disposal compared to 581,200 tons exported in the fourth quarter of 2002. This includes about 235,900 tons disposed in Orange County, 215,400 tons in Riverside County, and 48,300 tons in Ventura County.

Additionally, during the fourth quarter of 2003, disposal facilities in the County of Los Angeles received about 94,100 tons of waste from neighboring counties compared to 86,900 tons received in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Pursuant to the Waste Board's requirements, and upon Public Works receiving the revised facility reports, the revised Solid Waste Disposal Quantity Reports for calendar year 2003 were compiled and forwarded to all affected jurisdictions on May 15, 2004, the State deadline for submitting such revisions.

In summary, during the 2003 calendar year, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 12.8 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This includes approximately 2.2 million tons of solid waste exported for disposal at out-of-County facilities. Compared to 2002, the total disposal tonnage has increased approximately 249,000 tons.

- **Solid Waste Collection System—Options Analysis Report Implementation**

Model Franchise Agreement

County Counsel continues to review the draft model franchise agreement which would be utilized in establishing future franchises. The working group met on March 9, 2004, and waste hauling industry representatives provided comments on the latest version of the agreement at the meeting and through subsequent correspondence. County Counsel is addressing the industry's comments and

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anticipates finalizing the agreement by the end of this year. Once the agreement is finalized, Public Works, in consultation with the Board offices, will be conducting a series of community meetings; and based on community input, the franchise agreements will be finalized and submitted to your Board for consideration.

On July 15, 2004, County Counsel completed its review of the proposed County Code revisions for authorizing franchising of solid waste collection services in the County unincorporated areas. Public Works subsequently circulated the revisions to the working group for comments. Since the working group did not have any comments, Public Works will be submitting the revised Ordinance for Board consideration in August 2004.

- **California Performance Review**

On August 3, 2004, a special panel convened by the Governor released a comprehensive report (entitled "California Performance Review") on how State Government can be more responsive and efficient. Overall, the Report recommends the elimination of more than 100 boards/commissions (including the Waste Board) and establishes 11 integrated departments. Public Works is currently reviewing the Report's recommendations to determine its impact on our solid waste management responsibilities/programs.

REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES, AND LEGISLATION

- **Changes to State Disposal Reporting System (DRS) Regulations—SB 2202**

As required by SB 2202, the Waste Board submitted a report to the Legislature in early 2002 recommending changes to the State DRS to address its deficiencies. The Waste Board then proceeded to develop draft revised regulations incorporating the recommendations in the Report. Informal drafts of these regulations were first made available in November 2002 and subsequently in June 2003.

Public Works submitted comments in opposition to the proposals since they are impractical, excessive, and unnecessarily burdensome to agencies in the amount of information required for an agency to provide to jurisdictions.

In November 2003, the Waste Board issued a formal notice releasing the revised DRS regulations for a 45-day comment period. However, by Executive Order, the Governor imposed a moratorium postponing the effective date of all proposed regulations. The Waste Board will be notifying the public and all stakeholders of the new comment period when the moratorium is lifted.

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- **Rule 1133 - Emissions from Compost-Related Operations**

The purpose of this Rule is to regulate and reduce emissions from composting-related operations. The Rule was separated into 1133, 1133.1, 1133.2, and 1133.3. The first three were approved on January 10, 2003, and addressed co-composting and chipping and grinding operations. The adoption of Rule 1133.3 for green waste composting operations has been postponed to 2005 to allow time to address industry concerns. By 2005, San Diego State University, under contract with the Southern California Air Quality Management District, will conduct a research study to determine baseline emissions from the natural decay of green waste composting. It will also test composting methods to help develop additional Best Management Practices to reduce emissions.

- **California Air Resources Board Regulation for Solid Waste Collection Vehicles**

The California Air Resources Board released the regulation (Title 13, Section 2021) for solid waste collection vehicles for a 15-day comment period on February 26, 2004, with comments due by March 12, 2004. The regulation has removed its requirement for jurisdictions to enforce this regulation. However, the regulation still places California Air Resources Board's responsibilities relating to waste collection vehicles on municipalities that contract with waste hauler companies. In addition, it requires the jurisdictions to submit annual reports to the State providing information on their contracted haulers. Public Works and the Task Force submitted letters on March 11, 2004, expressing concern with the regulation. While the requirements were reduced, they still propose penalties of up to \$10,000 per day on jurisdictions for noncompliance. Comments were also provided on the regulation's definitions.

On May 17, 2004, the California Air Resources Board approved the regulation and sent it to the Office of Administrative Law with only minor changes. The recommended changes from Public Works and the Task Force were not made. On July 20, 2004, the Office of Administrative Law approved the regulation. The California Air Resources Board set up five public workshops offering municipalities and waste hauling firms assistance, information, and guidance on implementing the State's new Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation. The closest workshop was held in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 27.

- **State Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Regulations**

The Phase II regulations addressing the disposal of C&D and inert debris were approved by the Waste Board on September 17, 2003, and approved by the Office of Administrative Law on December 26, 2003, as previously reported. They became effective on February 24, 2004. These regulations place C&D and inert

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debris facilities into regulatory tiers so that the level of oversight is consistent with the potential impact on public health and safety. The regulations exclude some operations and place others in the Local Enforcement Agency Notification, Registration, or Full Solid Waste Facility Permit tiers. Under the Local Enforcement Agency Notification tier are Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operations. These can only accept specified inert materials which must be compacted to allow for structural or other beneficial loading. These materials will not be counted as disposal or recycling by the State. It is anticipated many of the inert facilities in the County of Los Angeles will fall under this tier.

With the adoption of the regulations, previously unpermitted facilities can now fall into the Registration or Full Solid Waste Facility Permit tiers. This will require compliance with DRS regulations and need for the facilities to be included in the Siting Element. The Waste Board recognized the potential impact this could have on municipalities' diversion rates and indicated it would work proactively to notify jurisdictions about any sites that fall under this category to enable them to take steps to prevent impacts on diversion rates. On May 19, 2004, the Task Force sent a letter to the Waste Board inquiring on the status of the evaluations and the procedures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on diversion rates.

- **Proposed County C&D Debris Recycling Ordinance**

The proposed C&D Debris Recycling Ordinance is intended to significantly increase the diversion of construction and demolition debris generated in the County unincorporated areas by requiring permit applicants to divert 50 percent of their debris. The Ordinance will apply to projects that involve demolition- or construction-related activities with an exemption for single-family homes and duplexes. This Ordinance is required as a part of the State-approved Time Extension for the County unincorporated areas to meet the State's waste reduction mandate.

The draft Ordinance has been with County Counsel administration for review and approval since late March 2004. It is anticipated that the Ordinance will be submitted to the Board for adoption by late summer. Proposals for the C&D Debris Education Program contract, which will educate stakeholders on the requirements of the Ordinance and assist them in complying, are being held pending finalization of the draft C&D Debris Recycling Ordinance. It is anticipated for this contract to be forwarded to the Board for approval along with the Ordinance.

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- **Legislative Coordination Efforts–Task Force**

The Task Force monitors the Waste Board and the State Legislature and has taken a position on several legislative bills that would impact local governments including the two major bills listed below.

- **Senate Bill 537 (Romero) Oppose June 9, 2004, Version**

This Bill would prohibit, until the year 2015, the siting of any new materials recovery facility (MRF) within the County of Los Angeles which is designed to receive more than 4,000 tons per day (tpd) of solid waste. The Bill would require each sanitation district within the County of Los Angeles to contribute a minimum of \$15 million annually into a restricted "Air Pollution Mitigating Fund" (a total annual impact of \$375 million since the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) is comprised of 25 independent sanitation districts).

The proposed, if enacted, would:

- Impair a local government's ability to manage the solid waste management needs of their communities
- Result in dramatic increases in solid waste and wastewater rates with a particularly severe impact on smaller districts
- Encroach on a local government's land use authority
- Confiscate local public agency funds which were collected for specific purposes and redirect them to other uses

- **Senate Bill 1387 (Romero) Oppose February 18, 2004, Version**

This Bill would prohibit the Sanitation Districts from acquiring or developing land, or place improvements upon land, to develop the 4,000 tpd Puente Hills MRF project, unless it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the affected district. Moreover, the vote would take place at the next regularly scheduled general election (e.g., November 2004).

This Bill, if enacted, would have serious repercussions on the County of Los Angeles' ability to manage its waste (including the region's waste-by-rail disposal system) since its land use authority would be usurped.

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PROPOSED NEW LANDFILLS—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Proposed Elsmere Canyon Landfill**

As discussed in the “Five-Year Review” section in this report, the Board instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon from the Siting Element’s list of future landfill sites. In order for Elsmere Canyon to be removed from the Siting Element, the Five-Year Review of the CIWMP and the Siting Element’s amendment process need to be sequentially completed. The Five-Year Review Report was completed and forwarded to the Waste Board on June 23, 2004, for approval. Public Works began the Siting Element amendment process which is anticipated to be completed by November 2006 assuming no major complications occur.

DISPOSAL FACILITY EXPANSIONS/CLOSURES—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Puente Hills Landfill**

The Puente Hills Landfill is owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts. Operations under the new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 02-027-(4) began on November 1, 2003, for a ten-year period.

The Sanitation Districts prepared and submitted to Public Works “The Puente Hills Landfill Master Plan.” The objective of this document is to establish a framework for the timely review and approval of various activities related to the development of the Landfill and to describe the various programs required for continued operation of the Landfill under CUP No. 02-027-(4). Public Works approved certain programs of this Master Plan in November 2003 and the drainage program on June 8, 2004.

As part of compliance with the facility’s CUP, on December 10, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Sanitation Districts adopted an Ordinance to implement a new reporting system at the Landfill. This Ordinance is intended to assist the County of Los Angeles in its efforts to comply with the mandates of AB 939 by more accurately determining the origin of wastes disposed at the Landfill. The first phase of the Waste Origin Verification Program under this Ordinance officially started on April 29, 2004.

Additionally, Public Works and the Sanitation Districts are close to finalizing an amended Waste Plan Conformance Agreement which is required by CUP No. 02-027-(4). The agreement would provide for (1) controlling and accounting for waste entering and, in the form of recycled or diverted material, leaving the Landfill, (2) the implementation and enforcement of programs intended to maximize utilization of the available fill capacity at the Landfill, and (3) the implementation of

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waste diversion and recycling programs on site and off site in accordance with applicable city and County waste management plans.

- **Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center**

Waste Management, Inc., the facility operator, has submitted an application to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning for an increase in its daily permitted disposal capacity from 1,700 tpd to 3,000 tpd. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Regional Planning by the end of August 2004 for review.

- **Sunshine Canyon Landfill**

Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI), continues its efforts to obtain all necessary permits for development of Phase I, Unit 2, of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the City of Los Angeles. The proposed Phase I would provide approximately 7.5 million tons of disposal capacity and an average daily disposal rate of 5,000 tpd.

On July 14, 2004, BFI agreed to install a double liner under the City Landfill expansion which will keep an early 2005 opening date on track while lessening residents' fear of water contamination. BFI will begin removing oaks and other trees from the property in August and expects to install the liner in November.

Regional Planning, in conjunction with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Health Services, Public Works, and County Counsel, is drafting a new CUP for the proposed combined City/County Landfill operation. Regional Planning has not set a date for public hearings due to several issues that still need to be addressed by BFI.

Public Works required BFI to provide a traffic study and mitigation measures for the intersections impacted by the Landfill expansion. Public Works subsequently requested updating the Supplemental Traffic Data Information Report. The revised report was submitted to Public Works in late June and is under review by Public Works' Traffic and Lighting Division.

- **Bradley Landfill**

On May 5, 2003, Waste Management, Inc., submitted a request to the Task Force to grant a Finding of Conformance for a regrade and 10-foot increase in the maximum elevation of the Landfill from 1,000 to 1,010 feet above mean sea level (MSL). During its meeting of June 2003, the Task Force reviewed this request but delayed its decision on the Finding of Conformance until Waste Management, Inc., submitted additional information requested by the Task Force. The information

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relates to the proximity of the Landfill to residential structures, the increase in the maximum allowable height of the Landfill to elevation 1,010 feet, the City of Los Angeles' regulations for protecting adjacent structures against intrusion of migrating subsurface landfill gas, and the Landfill's capacity, among other things. Waste Management, Inc., submitted the requested information on December 16, 2003. In reviewing the information, the Task Force deemed it incomplete and subsequently requested Waste Management, Inc., submit clarification on the recent landfill gas control violations, their commitment in promoting conversion technology, on-site diversion activity, and other issues.

The Task Force sent a letter to the City's Department of City Planning inquiring about the City's action of approving the Landfill's change of final elevation from 1,000 to 1,010 feet MSL and a letter to the City Department of Building and Safety inquiring about its regulations and enforcement procedures in ensuring the protection of residential structures adjacent to the Landfill. The Task Force received all the responses in June 2004 and will determine if the Landfill is in conformance with the Siting Criteria at its August 19, 2004, meeting.

PROPOSED MATERIALS RECOVERY AND COMPOSTING FACILITIES—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Puente Hills Landfill MRF**

The Puente Hills MRF, currently under construction, is a fully permitted MRF located on approximately 25 acres of the northwest portion of the Puente Hills Landfill site. The first phase of construction began in December 2001, and it is projected to be completed by the end of summer 2004. The facility is anticipated to be fully operational and open to the public around November 2004 and will target commercial waste loads.

The MRF is permitted to accept up to 4,400 tpd of municipal solid waste and a maximum of 24,000 tons per week (4,000 tpd, six-day average). Residual waste from the MRF could be transported off site to an out-of-County landfill by truck or rail.

- **Athens MRF (formerly United Waste Recycling and Transfer)**

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens MRF, is seeking approval from Regional Planning to increase its operating capacity from 1,920 tpd to 8,500 tpd.

The Regional Planning Commission conducted public hearings on the proposal on December 10, 2003; and on January 26, March 17, April 21, May 12, and June 2, 2004. At the June 2 hearing, the Commission closed all public hearings and

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directed staff to prepare final conditions of approval. Regional Planning staff, working in concert with County Counsel, Public Works, and Health Services, is currently preparing findings and conditions for consideration by the Commission.

On July 20, 2004, Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe conducted a town hall meeting to provide information in response to residents' concerns about MRF expansions in the San Gabriel Valley, namely Athens MRF, Puente Hills MRF, and Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station. Approximately 320 residents attended the evening meeting where they received information regarding the present and future solid waste management needs of the San Gabriel Valley and the County as well as the status of the Athens and Puente Hills MRF projects. Representatives from the Sanitation Districts, Regional Planning, Health Services, and Public Works also participated in the meeting.

- **Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station**

The facility is an existing transfer station in the City of Industry. On July 13, 2004, Health Services, acting as the State-approved Local Enforcement Agency, issued the facility a revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for an increase of the daily tonnage capacity from 1,500 tpd to a maximum of 5,000 tpd. The increased tonnage capacity would be accommodated without a physical expansion of the existing 10-acre site.

- **Proposed Municipal Direct Transfer Facility for the City of Pomona**

The proposed facility is a new, direct transfer facility to be owned and operated by the City of Pomona. The facility's primary business will be direct transfer of solid waste to permitted landfill facilities in or outside the County of Los Angeles. Residential refuse collection trucks will proceed to the transfer facility where collected refuse will be transferred directly into closed-container refuse trailers for transport to the landfill facilities.

The City of Pomona is currently applying to Health Services, the City's Local Enforcement Agency, for an SWFP to receive up to 150 tpd of solid waste.

- **Proposed Grand Central Transfer Station in City of Pomona**

Valley Vista Services, owner/operator of the Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station located in the City of Industry, is proposing to build a new Grand Central Transfer Station located in the City of Pomona. The proposed Transfer Station would be designed to receive 1,500 tpd of solid waste. The City of Pomona is in the process of selecting a consultant to prepare the EIR. The draft EIR is expected to be available for public review sometime in 2005.

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WASTE-BY-RAIL PROJECTS: MESQUITE REGIONAL AND EAGLE MOUNTAIN LANDFILLS

The Sanitation Districts entered into Purchase and Sale Agreements in August 2000 on the only two fully-permitted rail haul landfills in California: the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County and the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County. The Sanitation Districts closed escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill in December 2002. As previously reported, due in part to pending Federal litigation, the Sanitation Districts has not closed escrow on the purchase of the Eagle Mountain Landfill.

Closing escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill has allowed the waste-by-rail system development plans to move forward. Work on the master plan for the system began in fall 2003 and will be completed by late 2004. Following completion of the master plan, the Sanitation Districts intends to pursue concurrent final design and construction of the facilities necessary to begin operation. The Mesquite Regional Landfill is scheduled to open by 2009 which is consistent with the timetable in the new CUP issued by the Regional Planning Commission for the Puente Hills Landfill.

The Mesquite Regional Landfill is permitted to accept up to 20,000 tpd with a capacity of 600 million tons. This gives the Landfill an approximate lifespan of 100 years. Eagle Mountain Landfill is permitted to accept 10,000 tpd for the first 10 years with the option of increasing the daily limit to 20,000 tpd after a review of environmental performance. Its permitted capacity of 460 million tons and total capacity of 700 million tons would give the Landfill an approximate lifespan of 100 years as well.

OUT-OF-COUNTY LANDFILLS

- **El Sobrante Landfill Expansion—County of Riverside**

El Sobrante Landfill is owned and operated by Waste Management, Inc. (previously called USA Waste Services). Permitted at 10,000 tpd, the Landfill receives approximately 60 percent of its solid waste from out-of-County sources on a monthly basis.

On February 4, 2004, the LEA approved changes to the SWFP. The changes to the SWFP designate the "Operating Day" as 3 a.m. Monday to 8 p.m. Saturday each week and, at the end of the "Operating Day" (Saturday), daily cover must be used unless the area of refuse does not receive any refuse within a 12-hour period.

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In the past six months, several construction projects have occurred at the El Sobrante Landfill. Phase Eight of the Landfill expansion was started on February 17, 2004, and construction completion is expected at the end of August 2004. A 2.5-megawatt landfill-to-gas energy plant has been constructed and is currently in the testing phase during the first half of 2004.

- **Orange County Landfills**

Orange County landfills are permitted for a combined capacity of 20,500 tpd, 12,600 tpd of which are used by Orange County jurisdictions. The remaining 7,900 tpd are available for out-of-Orange County waste disposal.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors has contracted 3,400 tpd, five days/week for out-of-County waste. The contract with the Sanitation Districts is set at 1,000 tpd and expires in 2015. During the first quarter of 2004, an average of 1,155 tpd of solid waste were imported from the County of Los Angeles.

The Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department has initiated an EIR process on a long-range Strategic Plan referred to as Regional Landfill Options for Orange County (RELOOC). The RELOOC Strategic Plan proposes expansions at the Olinda Alpha and Frank R. Bowerman Landfills (two of the three County landfills). While no increase in daily tonnage is proposed, expansions would extend the life of the Landfills by about eight and ten years, respectively.

On June 17, the Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department released the Draft EIR 588 for public review and comment. EIR 588 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the operational continuation of the Olinda Alpha Landfill beyond 2013 to 2021. The extension of the life of the Landfill will be accomplished by a small expansion to increase overall capacity. The EIR for the proposed expansion of the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill will be initiated after the Master Development Plan is revised to account for changes needed due to a recent landslide that occurred within the Landfill's boundary. The target date for release of this EIR is mid-2005.

- **San Diego County Landfills**

In 2003, San Diego County landfills received 9,200 tons of green waste from the City of Los Angeles that were used as alternative daily cover with 1,500 tons allocated for beneficial reuse. Also, approximately 3,200 tons of other materials (contaminated soil, tires, C&D materials) were used as cover or beneficial reuse. In addition, San Diego County landfills received 80 tons of solid waste from the City of Los Angeles.

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According to the County of San Diego's Draft Siting Element, the San Diego Sycamore Landfill is a fully permitted Class III Landfill operated by the San Diego Landfill Systems and is owned by Allied Waste of North America. The Landfill currently processes 3,300 tpd of solid waste, 315 days per year, and consists of an area of 520 acres with closure estimated for 2017.

Allied Waste has applied to the City of San Diego for a Planned Development Permit for two proposed increases in disposal tonnage. The first proposed increase, from 3,300 tpd to 5,000 tpd, would occur around 2005. The second proposed increase, in 2011, would increase the daily throughput to 12,000 tpd.

PUBLIC/YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COUNTYWIDE/REGIONAL WASTE DIVERSION

- **Environmental Defenders Program**

The Environmental Defenders Program, Public Works' environmental education effort for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, continues to reach out to students and parents in the County delivering important reduce, reuse, and recycle messages. The main component of the program consists of assemblies conducted at elementary schools throughout the County with actors portraying the Environmental Defenders characters teaching students about the Three R's. Other outreach efforts within the program include production of promotional items, attendance at community and youth events, and media promotions.

In February 2004, the Board approved a new contract for the Environmental Defenders program. The main components of the program will not change, however, the characters and overall image of the program will be modified to reflect up-to-date trends among kids. The assembly presentation will feature a brand new format including script changes and new music. Although the same important environmental messages will be conveyed, Public Works decided that after five years it was time to update the look of the program. Changes in the cartoon characters will also be reflected in any promotional items and educational materials. Since February, we have visited 95 schools reaching 43,900 students.

- **Generation Earth**

The Generation Earth Program provides teacher training and curriculum for middle and high schools and the opportunity for students to complete hands-on activities to enhance their knowledge about source reduction, recycling, illegal dumping, household hazardous waste (HHW), and stormwater/urban runoff issues.

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During this reporting period (February 2004 through July 2004), the Contractor, TreePeople, conducted four waste reduction workshops that introduced teachers to Generation Earth materials and provided extensive training in environmental service learning. In total, 110 teachers were supported through these workshops impacting 80,000 students as a result of the Professional Development/Service Learning element. In addition to the workshops, the Generation Earth website received approximately 80,000 hits during this reporting period.

The Battle of the Schools, Generation Earth's campus waste reduction competition, was also held during this time period. A total of 52 schools throughout the County participated reaching about 92,000 students. In all, 161,600 pounds of mixed paper, 3,500 pounds of plastic, 1,100 pounds of aluminum, and other materials such as tennis shoes, batteries, and textbooks were recycled for a total of 178,200 pounds.

- **Plan-It Earth Program**

Plan-It Earth is a newspaper-based learning program for sixth through ninth grade students that is co-sponsored by Public Works and the Los Angeles Times. The Program provides teachers with an eight-week classroom subscription to the Los Angeles Times paid for by Public Works. To increase student knowledge about the environment, teachers use the newspaper for completing classroom exercises, and classes participate in an environmental essay contest.

November 2003 marked the beginning of the new program which was extended through March 19, 2004, to encourage more participation. The in-classroom program includes language arts lessons with an environmental theme as defined by Times in Education and Public Works. Along with the essay writing contest, there are pre- and post-program student surveys, a teacher evaluation survey, and an awards presentation at the Los Angeles Times headquarters building with gift certificates and prizes.

Newspaper ads were placed in the Los Angeles Times throughout the month of November promoting the program and flyers were sent to 97,000 teachers during the fall. In total, 250 essays were received for the contest. The winning essay ran in the May 22, 2004, issue of the Los Angeles Times.

- **Countywide Smart Gardening Program**

During the reporting period, BioContractors, Inc., conducted 52 Smart Gardening workshops at the County's 12 permanent demonstration centers and other community locations such as schools and garden clubs. Nearly 500 residents attended these workshops and more than 300 compost and worm bins were sold at

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subsidized prices at these workshops. BioContractors also attended ten regional events where over 4,000 residents visited the booth to receive more information on the Smart Gardening Program.

- **Countywide Smart Gardening Program Video Production**

On March 3, 2004, the Board awarded the "Countywide Smart Gardening Program Video Production" contract to Showreel International, Inc., for \$246,691. The goal of the contract is to develop an informative, broadcast-quality video in English and Spanish to act as an alternative method of outreach to a targeted audience for the Countywide Smart Gardening Program. At the end of the one-year contract period, the video, produced in DVD and VHS formats, will be distributed to libraries, cities, video stores, and to the public.

- **Departmental Recycling Education/Outreach Services**

A \$250,000 two-year contract with Strategy Workshop, Inc., was approved by the Board on June 15, 2004, to help County departments comply with the waste diversion requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) by expanding and enhancing the County Departmental Recycling Program. The work will principally include implementing recommendations developed by a previous contractor for the Departmental Recycling Program and developing education/outreach and technical assistance materials for County employees to increase waste diversion and improve reporting by County departments.

- **Integrated Waste Tire Recycling Program**

The County's contractor, The Peterson Group, is conducting ten waste tire recycling events over a two-year period. The Peterson Group conducted an event in February 2004 in Azusa collecting 1,082 passenger-equivalent tires; a joint event with the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale in April 2004 collecting 11,046 passenger-equivalent tires; and a June 2004 event in Torrance collecting 1,059 passenger-equivalent tires. The tires collected were recycled into materials such as roofing shingles and loose playground fill.

- **Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (LACRMDZ)**

The LACRMDZ is one of 40 zones that are part of the State's program to expand markets for recycled material generated within the State. The LACRMDZ was previously administered by the County of Los Angeles Community Development Commission with support and cooperation provided by Public Works. To more effectively manage the program, and with mutual agreement by the Community Development Commission and Public Works, the program was transferred from the

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Community Development Commission to Public Works effective July 1, 2004. The Board of Supervisors approved said transfer and administration on June 1, 2004. Public Works will integrate the program with its current recycling and outreach activities and the Community Development Commission will remain as a referral contact to provide sundry support.

The Community Development Commission, upon receiving Board of Supervisors' approval, submitted the necessary paperwork to the Waste Board for the zone renewal for the LACRMDZ. This includes updated Market Development Plans and the California Environmental Quality Act documents as well as new City Council resolutions from the seven city jurisdictions that are members. The renewal provides for an additional ten-year term for the zone. At its July 13, 2004, meeting the Waste Board approved the renewal of the LACRMDZ.

- **Environmental Hotline (1-888-CLEAN-LA)**

Public Works' Environmental Hotline was established to provide a convenient means for County residents to obtain information on proper disposal of HHW, used oil recycling, stormwater pollution prevention, illegal dumping, recycling, grasscycling, and other environmental issues. The hotline received approximately 37,250 telephone calls during this time period.

- **Environmental Resources Website (www.888CleanLA.com)**

The County's Environmental Resources Website, at www.888CleanLA.com, provides residents and businesses with valuable information about the County's waste reduction efforts and recycling programs. These include the HHW, Smart Gardening, Residential Recycling, Youth Education, Tire Recycling, and Business Recycling Programs. The website also provides useful environmentally friendly information such as where to recycle computers, how to reduce junk mail, when you need to apply for an industrial waste permit, and seasonal information like Christmas tree recycling. Environmental-related "Frequently Asked Questions" are updated regularly based on feedback from the public, updates to our programs, and new information. The website also includes a section dedicated specifically to Stormwater Pollution Prevention providing information on who to contact to report clogged storm drains, request storm drain stenciling, and learn about what a specific city is doing to improve water quality. In addition to a wealth of relevant environmentally related information, the website has schedules of HHW collection events and Smart Gardening workshops that are frequently updated.

Responses to e-mail inquiries from the public through the website are also provided on a timely basis usually in less than one working day. From February 2004 through July 2004, pages on the website were viewed over 440,000 times in nearly

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144,000 visits by approximately 85,000 residents, officials, and representatives of governments and organizations.

COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA WASTE DIVERSION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **Residential Recycling Program**

The Program continued its public outreach through media releases, narrowcasting outreach through displays at local shops, placement of billboard and bus shelter advertisements, and conducting outreach at seven community events. These community events included the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, California Poppy Festival, Pacific Islander Festival, and the Juneteenth Festival. Technical assistance to multi-family complexes is also continuing. A post-program telephone survey will be conducted later in the year to evaluate the success of the Program's outreach.

- **Business Recycling Program**

During the reporting period, Edelman (the Program contractor) conducted site visits to 145 businesses to assist them in implementing recycling and waste reduction activities. To disseminate the Program's message and to raise awareness to the business community, Edelman mailed out the first in the series of three postcards to all unincorporated areas businesses. This was followed by mailing the Program's brochure to over 22,000 businesses in the County unincorporated areas.

Public Works' staff and the contractor prepared a preliminary concept package for a grant application in the amount of \$337,000 to the California Department of Conservation (DOC). The concept package was approved by the DOC and the final proposal was prepared and submitted on July 6, 2004. The DOC will make a decision regarding final approval on September 10, 2004. If awarded, the grant will be used to start the Universal Recycling Program which is a beverage container recycling program for the Universal Studios Theme Park, Universal City Walk, Universal Amphitheater, sound stages, dressing rooms, movie trailers, and production houses.

HHW AND SPECIAL WASTE PROGRAMS

- **Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste HHW/E-Waste) Collection Program**

During the reporting period, a media plan was in place providing newspaper advertising, community announcements, and correspondence to County of

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Los Angeles and city officials to promote the 30 HHW/E-Waste Collection Events held in the Cities or unincorporated communities of Claremont, Santa Fe Springs, Bell, Diamond Bar, Marina del Rey, Glendale, Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles, Long Beach, Athens, Topanga, Azusa, Compton, Santa Clarita, La Mirada, Avalon, Manhattan Beach, El Monte, West Covina, Pico Rivera, Calabasas, Torrance, Irwindale, Culver City, Downey, Rancho Palos Verdes, La Habra Heights, City of Industry, Altadena, and Norwalk. Also as part of this program, the City of Los Angeles conducted Hazmobile collection events in the communities of Hollywood Hills and Northridge. During the reporting period, the City of Los Angeles opened its fifth permanent collection center at the University of California, Los Angeles, and all continue to collect HHW/E-Waste from all residents countywide.

From February 1, 2004, through July 31, 2004, 337,095 gallons of HHW and 872,698 pounds of e-waste were collected at the County events from 35,677 car loads.

In addition, out of 17,842 car loads, 213,444 gallons of HHW and 684,843 pounds of e-waste were collected at the City of Los Angeles' events and collection centers from February 1, 2004, through June 30, 2004.

- **HHW/E-Waste Public Education Program**

This public education program addresses the reuse of HHW/E-Waste products, the use of alternative products, and proper disposal of HHW/E-Waste. Public education about these issues was provided to residents at community events, presentations to businesses and community groups, and by working with local retailers and churches in the vicinity of the collection events to promote the program and provide information.

- **Antelope Valley Permanent HHW Facility**

On March 30, 2004, the Board approved a joint-partnership agreement with the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, and Waste Management, Inc., to design, construct, and maintain the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center. This Center will provide a permanent location for residents to drop off HHW (twice a month), and E-Waste and waste tires (based on the availability of grant funds) on a quarterly basis. As agreed, the City of Palmdale will be the lead agency in constructing the Center. In May 2004, the City of Palmdale's contractor prepared a conceptual plan that was approved by the partners. Construction is expected to begin this fall with plans for a grand opening early next year. However, during the construction period, the County will continue to conduct HHW collection events in the Antelope Valley in the same manner it would customarily conduct such events.

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Once the Center is constructed, the County and Waste Management, Inc., will jointly fund the operation and maintenance of the Center for three years. After the initial 30 months, the partners will jointly evaluate the Center's effectiveness. Based on the findings, a determination will be made to continue to fund the Center's operation and maintenance or to terminate the Agreement.

- **Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week**

The 2004 Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week took place the week of April 3 through April 10, 2004. Events during the week included collection of waste tires, free trash collection, and tree planting events in various locations. A free HHW/E-Waste collection event was also associated with this event. In total, approximately 10,000 passenger equivalent tires, over 17,000 gallons of HHW, and almost 28 tons of E-Waste were collected during this event. Many residents attended the Smart Gardening Workshops and numerous compost bins and worm bins were sold at the two locations. This event was a collaborative effort between the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Waste Management, Inc., private entities, volunteers, and Public Works to raise environmental awareness in the Antelope Valley.

- **Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center**

The County operates the Center in cooperation with the Waste Board to reduce waste tire disposal by promoting use of rubberized asphalt concrete constructed with recycled tires. The Center provides education, training, and consultation on the technology and use of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete in road rehabilitation.

During this reporting period, the Center limited its workshop activities to an as-needed basis with none conducted. The Center continues to address inquiries from various public agencies and private citizens regarding the use, design, and inspection of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete. Inquiries were received through the Center's toll-free hotline which averaged 20 calls a month and through the website which received approximately 74,700 hits between January and April and averaged eight e-mails per month. The Center has discontinued the City Incentive Program which provided \$12,500 grants to agencies for quality control inspections of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete projects. Cities inquiring about the program are directed to contact the Waste Board who currently administers the incentive program under Senate Bill 1346.

Sjoberg Evanshenk Consulting was commissioned by the Waste Board to evaluate the Center and released its report in March. The report found that although the Center fulfills the Waste Board's contract provisions, the Centers need to be more

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proactive by taking a marketing approach in advocating Rubberized Asphalt Concrete. The Center's director met with Waste Board members to discuss the report, and the future course of the Center is still under discussion.

- **Used Motor Oil Recycling Program**

Public Works was awarded a Seventh Cycle Used Oil Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$38,000 for Fiscal Year 2003-04. The grant funds will be used to continue the successful outreach efforts to Chinese communities in the County.

As part of the grant requirements for the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Used Oil Block Grant cycles, site visits to the Used Oil Certified Centers were conducted in April and May with assistance from the State. The annual reports for the cycles are currently being drafted and are due to the State in August. The final report for the Seventh Cycle Block Grant is also being prepared in time for submission to the State on August 15.

Public Works recently applied for the Tenth Cycle Used Oil Block Grant. The grant will be awarded in the next few months.

The Kragen–Dodger promotion was launched on May 2, 2004, to further encourage Do-It-Yourselfers to recycle their used motor oil. To create awareness and excitement among the target market, the promotion is supported by various advertising efforts. Radio public service announcements are currently airing on KFWB and KWKW (Spanish); a message specifically focused on the promotion was included on Kragen's newspaper advertising; a full-color, full-page ad came out in Dodger Magazine; and flyers were distributed at Dodger Stadium. The promotion is also posted on the www.888CleanLA.com website and ended on July 31, 2004.

The Sixth Cycle Used Oil Opportunity Grant final report was approved by the State. Overall the campaign to reach Chinese communities was a success. Through Chinese radio public service announcements, newspaper and magazine ads, bus shelter signage, billboards, floor graphics and flyer distribution, three very well-attended collection events were accomplished. A total of 1,260 residents participated in the events which collected 2,725 gallons of motor oil and 615 oil filters.

Following the overwhelming success of the collection events last year, two additional Used Oil Collection Events were held on June 5 and 6, 2004, in the heavily Chinese populated area of Rowland Heights and the City of Monterey Park. A total of 1,950 gallons of used motor oil and 450 oil filters were collected from approximately 1,300 residents who participated in the events. Preceding these events, a press conference was conducted at Public Works' Headquarters in

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Alhambra. Chief Deputy Director Donald L. Wolfe welcomed the Chinese media and reiterated the importance of recycling used motor oil and Public Works' goal of continued public education. The media were also provided with an overview on re-refined oil by Rick Teebay of our Transit Operations Unit, and were given an opportunity to take photos of Public Works' fleet cars. The collection events were promoted through Chinese radio and print advertising. Five weeks prior to the events, radio spots ran on AM 1300 (Mandarin) and AM 1370 (Mandarin), and ads were placed on AutoWorld Magazine, Sing Tao Daily, Chinese Daily News, and International Daily News. A Mandarin Chinese language hotline was also established to handle calls. This Hotline received approximately 85 calls before the two events.

- **Recycled Paper Purchasing Program**

County departments continue to purchase 30 percent post-consumer, recycled-content paper using the County's cooperative purchasing program which began on March 6, 2000. The program enables governmental entities, such as the Cities of Glendale and Los Angeles, to join the County in purchasing recycled bond paper. Through March 2004, 25 cities in the County are participating in the program and have purchased more than 780,000 cases of paper with a cost savings of approximately \$600,000.

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